



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Pinelands Commission Names Agency's Library in Honor of the Late Governor James J. Florio, who fought to preserve the Pinelands

NEW LISBON, N.J. October 14, 2022 – The New Jersey Pinelands Commission has named its library in honor of the late Governor James J. Florio, while recognizing his vital efforts to protect the region.

During its meeting today, the Commission adopted a resolution officially designating the James J. Florio Pinelands Library at its headquarters on Springfield Road in Pemberton Township. The library is adjacent to interactive, educational exhibits in the agency's Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy, and it is filled with Pinelands-related books, Pinelands-themed artwork, and professional, framed photos that showcase the beauty of the Pinelands. The library also serves as an important meeting space for Commission staff and the public.

"New Jerseyans can take great pride in the preservation of the Pinelands, and it likely would not be possible without Governor Florio," said Susan R. Grogan, the Commission's Acting Executive Director. "Every time anyone steps into our library they'll be reminded of how much Governor Florio means to the Pinelands and how he fought to protect the region's remarkable resources."

"Governor Florio's contributions to the Pinelands are immeasurable, and it is only fitting that his name grace the walls of an institution that owes its existence to his foresight and wisdom," said Laura E. Matos, the Pinelands Commission's Chair.

Governor Florio passed away on September 25, 2022, and the Commission's resolution details his life of public service and his extraordinary vision, wisdom and determination to protect the environment, especially the Pinelands in southern New Jersey.

Governor Florio served in the U.S. Navy, as a State Assemblyman from 1969 to 1974, as a member of the U.S. Congress from 1975 to 1990, as the Governor of the State of New Jersey from 1990 to 1994, and as the Chairman of New Jersey Pinelands Commission from November 8, 2002 to June 28, 2005. He was a strong proponent of Pinelands protection, helping to craft and steer passage of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which established the 1.1-million-acre Pinelands National Reserve. The federal act created a planning process to preserve the resources in the Pinelands and set the stage for the adoption of the New Jersey Pinelands

Protection Act.

As a Congressman, Governor Florio authored the landmark Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, also known as the “Superfund” law, that cleaned up hundreds of the most polluted sites in the country, including sites in the Pinelands and in other areas of New Jersey.

As the Governor of New Jersey, he signed the Clean Water Enforcement Act, which was one of the country’s strongest environmental laws of its type.

During his tenure as Chairman of the Pinelands Commission, the Commission launched a \$5.5 million study of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system, amended the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan to expand the list of protected plant species, successfully halted the construction of a proposed waste-transfer station in the Pinelands, launched an in-depth review of forestry policies in the Pinelands, created a task force to assess housing opportunities in Regional Growth Areas, completed smart growth planning projects in several Pinelands municipalities, instituted innovative conservation measures that protected thousands of acres in the Toms River, Oyster Creek and Waretown Creek watersheds, and established the Pinelands Conservation Fund, which has since helped to fund numerous scientific studies, planning initiatives, the construction of the Candace McKee Ashmun Pinelands Education Exhibit, and the permanent preservation of nearly 9,000 acres of land in the state Pinelands Area.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency that is charged with protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the 938,000-acre state Pinelands Area, which includes parts of 53 municipalities in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

The Pinelands is the largest body of open space on the mid-Atlantic seaboard between Boston and Richmond, and it provides refuge to 135 threatened or endangered plant and animal species. The region is home to an aquifer system that contains an estimated 17 trillion gallons of water.

***** ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** High-resolution photos from today’s Commission meeting are available via e-mail, including the photos below. Please contact Paul Leakan at Info@pinelands.nj.gov.



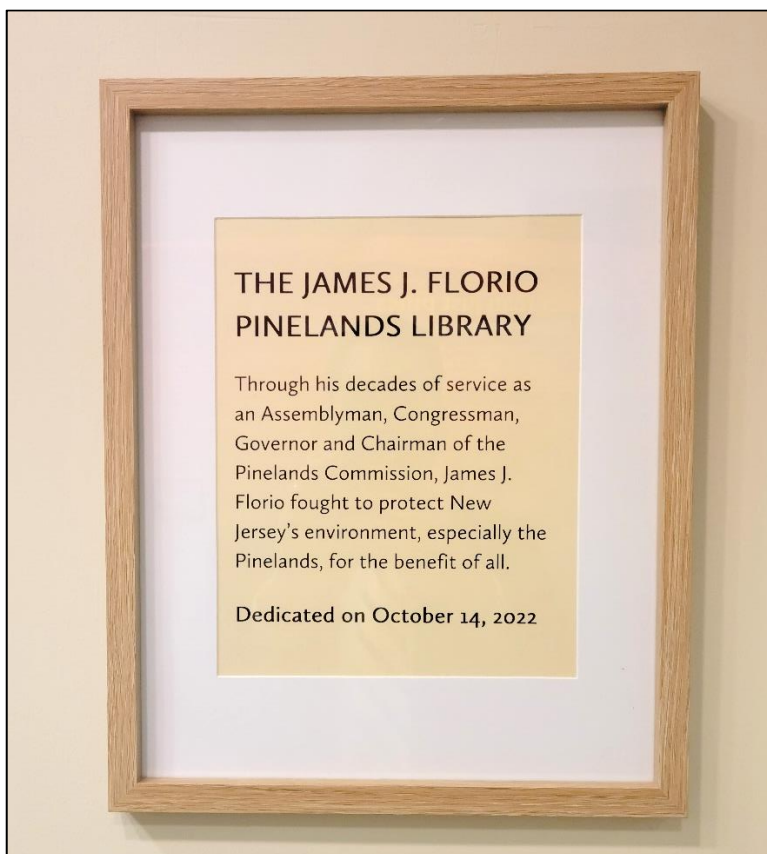
From left to right: Pinelands Commission Acting Executive Director Susan R. Grogan, Vice Chairman Alan W. Avery, Jr., Chair Laura E Matos, Commissioner Mark Lohbauer and Commissioner Jerome Irick stand in the newly designated James J. Florio Pinelands Library at the Commission’s headquarters on October 14, 2022.



Books and Pinelands-themed tiles inside of the newly designated James J. Florio Pinelands Library at the Pinelands Commission’s headquarters.



Books and Pinelands-themed tiles inside of the newly designated James J. Florio Pinelands Library at the Pinelands Commission's headquarters.



A sign located outside of the newly designated James J. Florio Pinelands Library at the Pinelands Commission's headquarters.



A television located inside of the Pinelands Library at the Pinelands Commission's headquarters.

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